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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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May 5, 1992

CLASSICS SCHOLAR SLATED FOR LAST PRESIDENT'S LECTURE

MISSOULA --

Donald Kagan, dean of Yale College at Yale University and a leading authority on ancient Greece, will present the last President's Lecture in this year's series Wednesday, May 13, at The University of Montana.

His free, public lecture on "Pericles' Vision for Athens" will begin at 8 p.m. in the Urey Lecture Hall. It will present another aspect of this year's theme for the series: evaluating the European legacies for the Americas.

Although Kagan's list of writings includes articles on subjects classical and otherwise, including human rights, military service and baseball, his scholarship focuses on Pericles, a democratic visionary and leading figure in Athens at its height during the fifth century B.C. His latest book, "Pericles of Athens and the Birth of Democracy," completes a four-volume work on the Peloponnesian War that UM classics Professor and Honors College Dean John Madden says is "the definitive treatment of that subject and likely to remain so for the coming century."

A strong defender of Western civilization's structures and values, Kagan often speaks out against what he sees as the gradual erosion of Western civilization courses in college curricula. "Western culture and institutions are the most powerful paradigm in the world today," he says in "An Address to the Class of 1994." "As they increasingly become the

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Kagan.rl -- 2

objects of emulation by peoples everywhere, their study becomes essential for those of all nations."

Born in Lithuania, Kagan grew up in New York City and earned a bachelor's degree in history at Brooklyn College. He holds a master's in classics from Brown University and a doctorate in history and classics from Ohio State University. He's been on the Yale University faculty since 1969.

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